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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/079,056	02/19/2002	Adam W. Cates	06809.0102-00	5121

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

GETZOW, SCOTT M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3762

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/079,056	CATES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Scott M. Getzow	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-180 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 54-95, 129-136 and 163-179 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) remainder is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 13, 14, 21-30, 47-53, 109, 119, 120, 127, 128, 138, 150, 152, 153, 158-160 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Art Unit: 3762

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1,31,32,34-36,38-42,96,101-104,106,155,156,157,161,162,180 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison et al (6845267).

Harrison teaches a structure which can be placed in a vessel of a biosystem.

Col. 9, lines 45+ teach a thin elongated cylinder with dimensions that would allow for placement in a vessel. The SCU of Harrison includes a pulse generator and sensing structure ^{as} well as electrodes, see col. 13, last line to col. 14, lines 8+ which teaches the various sensed signals, including a chemical sensor which senses pH. Col. 11, lines 29+ teach RF communication between a programmer and an implanted stimulator. Col. 12, lines 43+ teach that leads can be attached to the stimulator. Col. 12, lines 5+ teach the various types of power supplies used with the device. Col. 15, lines 21+ teach that the device can be inserted intravascularly, and inserted into a renal ganglion, for example. Re claim 96, see figure 7 that shows a planet and satellite devices, and col. 16, lines 10+. Re claim 157, the support structure is considered ^{to be} the housing of the SCU, which contains the pulse generator and sensing circuit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-12,15-20,33,37,43-46,97-100,105,107,108,110-118,121-126,137,139-149,151,154 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al.

Re claim 4, the particular structure set forth, such as the sensor reader and data digitizer and encoder are all common in the art for communicating digital signals between medical devices, and thus would be obvious to use with the circuitry set forth in Harrison. Re claim 97, the use of a tether would allow for more secure communication between devices, with less noise interruption. Re claim 125 and 125, the device of Harrison could provide such signals if desired. The only modification, if any, which would be needed would be to increase the voltage of the stimulation, which can be done by the programmer of Harrison.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2,3,13,14,21-30,47-53,109,119,120,127,128,138,150,152,153,158-160 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


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6. Claims 54-95, 129-136, 163-168, 169-179 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Getzow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Scott M. Getzow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762

SMG